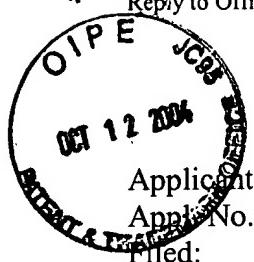


2654



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Asano et al.  
Appl. No.: 09/530,200  
Filed: May 15, 2000  
Title: NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND NATURAL  
LANGUAGE PROCESSING METHOD  
Art Unit: 2654  
Examiner: Lamont M. Spooner  
Docket No.: 113184-021

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OCT 18 2004

Technology Center 2600

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 7, 2004, Applicant herein responds as follows:

**Amendment to the Specification** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 13 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet.

**Remarks** begin on page 14 of this paper.